

Arius and Athanasius

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Hrected against Eustathius, the Bishop of Antioch, who was charged with heresy, profligacy, and yranny by the two Eusebii and a number of other >ishops, then on their way to Jerusalem. Whether :he charges were well founded or not, the tribunal vas a prejudiced one and the sentence of deprivation and banishment passed upon Eustathius vas bitterly resented in Antioch.

After certain other bishops had met with a like fate, :he Eusebii flew at higher game and attacked Ath-inasius. They had already entered into an understanding with the Meletian faction in Egypt, who :arefully kept alive the charges against Athanasius, ind now they again took up the cudgels on behalf }f Arius. Eusebius wrote to the Patriarch asking him :o restore Arius to communion on the ground that le had been grievously misrepresented. Athanasius Bluntly refused. Arius, he said, had started a deadly bieresy: he had been anathematised by an QEcumeni:al Council: how, then, could he be restored to :ommunion? Eusebius and Arius appealed to the Emperor. Constantine, who had previously ordered Arius to attend at court and promised him signal proof of his regard and permission to return to Alexandria, sent a peremptory message to Athanasius bidding him admit Arius. When Athanasius, on the score of conscience, returned a steady refusal, the Emperor angrily threatened that, if he did not throw open his church doors to all who desired to enter, he would send an officer to turn him out of his church and expel him from Alexandria. "Now that you have full knowledge of my will," he added, " see that